United Nations S/2007/702

Security Council

Distr.: General
3 December 2007

Original: English

Letter dated 28 November 2007 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to inform the members of the Security Council that during a recent mission to the Central African Republic undertaken by the Department of Political Affairs, the Prime Minister of the country expressed the deep appreciation of his Government for the continued contribution of the United Nations Peacebuilding Support Office in the Central African Republic (BONUCA) to the stabilization of his country and requested that the mandate of BONUCA be extended for an additional year. Furthermore, the authorities of the Central African Republic have recently advised my Special Representative that they would like BONUCA to continue to assist them in their efforts towards building lasting peace, including by helping the national stakeholders organize an inclusive political dialogue, which will improve prospects for reaching sustainable peace in the country.

In spite of progress registered thus far in promoting lasting and sustainable peace in the Central African Republic, I remain concerned about the recurrence of political, security, humanitarian and human rights crises in the country. Sporadic attacks by rebels and criminal gangs, especially in the northern parts of the country, and subsequent reprisals by Government forces, as well as the fallout of the Darfur crisis in the border areas with the Sudan, add to prevailing insecurity and the massive humanitarian and human rights challenges confronting the country. As a result, encouraging efforts to reform the economy and to promote development, vital for the long-term stabilization of the Central African Republic, are undermined.

Nevertheless, some recent positive developments, facilitated in part by BONUCA, show that the United Nations peacebuilding efforts in the country are making strides. In particular, preparations for the national dialogue are progressing; the round table held in Brussels on 26 October mobilized close to $600 million for the country's development programmes; preparations for a national workshop on security sector reform are under way; and the Bretton Woods institutions have reached a decision point under the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Debt Initiative (HIPC).

In view of the above, I believe that the support and cooperation of the international community remain vital, not only to help consolidate progress achieved so far in the Central African Republic, but also to prevent a relapse into conflict. I therefore recommend that the mandate of BONUCA be extended for an additional year, from 1 January to 31 December 2008. During that period BONUCA will: (a) promote national reconciliation efforts, particularly by assisting the

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national stakeholders to organize an inclusive political dialogue; (b) promote the respect for human rights and democratic norms; (c) support the rule of law and accountable and transparent governance; (d) facilitate the mobilization of resources for national reconstruction and development; (e) reinforce cooperation between the United Nations and regional entities with a view to strengthening initiatives aimed at addressing transborder insecurity in the subregion; (f) assist the United Nations multidimensional mission in Chad and the Central African Republic (MINURCAT) in the fulfilment of its mandate in the territory of the Central Africa Republic; and (g) mainstream a gender perspective into peacebuilding, in line with Security Council resolution 1325 (2000).

I should be grateful if you would bring the present letter to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) **Ban** Ki-moon